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KDOT announces Phase I projects for Kansas airport improvements

A dozen airports have been selected for Kansas Airport Improvement Program funding to repair or improve facilities and enhance air ambulance access.

The projects selected for this Kansas Department of Transportation program will receive a combined total of up to \$2 million in fiscal year 2017. KAIP requires airport sponsors to pay a minimum of five percent of the total project costs up to a maximum of 50 percent, depending on project category (of modernization, equipment, design and preservation). The combined project cost of the 12 projects is \$2.25 million.

The projects approved by Transportation Secretary Mike King are the first phase of new KAIP projects; a second phase remains under review.

“These projects will help us toward a goal of making critical air services accessible to 94 percent of the state’s population,” said Secretary King. “Recent improvements to rural airports have brought us to 90% of the population covered by airports that can be accessed by air ambulance operators.”

KAIP is allocated \$5 million annually through the T-WORKS transportation program. KDOT’s Division of Aviation, which manages the program, received 114 applications for projects totaling \$38.7 million.

“The applications each year exceed funding, indicating the value local officials attach to maintaining their airports,” said state Aviation Planner Greg Chenoweth. “KAIP allows us to advance the effectiveness of our airport system.”

Seventy-five percent of the selected projects assist or address airport air ambulance capability through equipment installations and runway improvements; the remaining 25% of projects enhance airport business functions and fuel sales.

Communities selected for funding and the amount requested include:

Beloit – Install precision approach lighting; \$25,500

Clay Center – Install Automated Weather Observation System; \$120,000

Coldwater – Install Automated Weather Observation System; \$120,000

Concordia – Mill and overlay runway; \$431,750

Fredonia – Widen runway; \$635,280

Independence – Upgrade Automated Weather Observation System; \$100,000

Jetmore – Repair airfield pavement; \$388,050

Kingman – Replace existing fuel tank; \$250,000

Marion – Install credit card reader for 24-hour fueling; \$25,000

Newton – Acquire voltage regulator for airfield lights; \$25,500

Ottawa – Install Jet-A fuel pump; \$89,000

Smith Center – Replace obsolete weather sensor component; \$30,000

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